

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A network access control method comprising:
setting certificate information for each of user
terminals, the certificate information including a user
5 identification and access right information indicating
identification and access right information indicating
a limited access right to a network;
determining whether the user terminal is
authenticated based on a user identification; and
controlling access to the network in accordance
10 with the certificate information when the user terminal
is authenticated.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the
access right information indicates the access right
based on a prepaid amount.
- 15 3. The method according to claim 2, wherein
the access right information indicates an
expiration date based on the prepaid amount, and
the controlling permits access when an access date
does not reach the expiration date.
- 20 4. The method according to claim 2, wherein
the access right information indicates an
accessible time period based on the prepaid amount, and
the controlling permits access when a remaining
accessible time period exist.
- 25 5. The method according to claim 2, wherein
the access right information indicates an
accessible data size based on the prepaid amount, and

the controlling permits access when a remaining accessible data size exist.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the setting writes the certificate information into 5 a storage medium.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the setting writes the certificate information into a storage medium included in the user terminal.

8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the 10 controlling wirelessly connects the user terminal with a network access point.

9. The method according to claim 2, wherein, when no access is permitted, the controlling notifies no permission to the user terminal.

15 10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the setting allows a transaction in cash or by credit card.

11. A network access control method comprising:
receiving certificate information from a user terminal, the certificate information including a user 20 identification and access right information indicating a limited access right to a network;

determining whether the user terminal is authenticated based on the user identification; and
controlling access to the network in accordance 25 with the certificate information when the user terminal is authenticated.

12. An information providing apparatus comprising:

a receiving unit which receives an access request and certificate information from a user terminal, the certificate information including a user identification and right information indicating a limited information receiving right;

an authenticate unit which determines whether the user terminal is authenticated based on the user identification; and

an information providing unit which provides
10 an information in accordance with the right information when the user terminal is authenticated.

13. The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein, when the right information is expired, the information providing unit invalidates the access request and
15 notifies invalidation to the user terminal.

14. The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising a detector which detects a location of the user terminal and wherein the information providing unit which provides promotion information depending on
20 the location of the user terminal.

15. A certificate issuing apparatus comprising:
a detecting unit which detects a paid amount; and
a writing unit which writes right information into
a storage medium, the information indicating a limited
25 access right to a network based on the paid amount.

16. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the writing unit writes access right information

into the storage medium, the information indicating a limited access right to a network based on the paid amount..

17. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein
5 the writing unit writes ticket information into the storage medium.

18. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the writing unit writes the right information into a magnetic disk or a memory card.

10 19. The apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the writing unit writes the right information into a magnetic disk or a memory card included in the user terminal.